

*A2*

--First, in step S100, the maintenance control section 300 of the maintenance monitor mechanism 310 waits for one minute. That is, the maintenance monitor processing of the embodiment operates in one-minute cycle. This cycle is not necessarily limited to one minute, but can be shorter or longer than one minute provided that the freshness of the maintenance quality displayed meets the requirement. An object of a wait in step S100 can be anything that generally provides updating timing. For example, waiting until a specified time or waiting for an explicit command from the operator is acceptable. --

Replace the paragraph starting at page 18, line 15 and ending at page 19, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

*A3*

-- In general remote maintenance, a piece of operating information of an apparatus-to-be-maintained is referred to and a system makes a judgment of carrying out an actual maintenance action if a calculated value concerning the information exceeds an allowable limit. Operating information means record the condition of an apparatus-to-be-maintained while the power to the apparatus is on. The operating information includes periodic maintenance information necessary for carrying out periodic inspection of the apparatus, failure information on failures detected and recorded by the apparatus automatically, and analytical environment tracing information collected by an analyzer in carrying out an analysis. The periodic maintenance information includes operating hours of the apparatus, number of times of operation of a special mechanism such as a syringe mechanism for dispensing a specimen to reaction vessels, and history of the maintenance carried out manually by the personnel in charge. The failure information includes a record of alarm codes corresponding to a failure detected by the apparatus and a record of parameters upon occurrence of the failure. The analytical environment tracing information includes an operating record of the mechanism, alarm on the measured data, and parameters needed for the calculation of the measured data. The operating information as above is interpreted in the maintenance control section 310 or

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maintenance management section 210 to a certain judgment criterion and linked to the maintenance activities, such as replacement of parts of the apparatus, as needed. It is not always limited to a judgment of the operation information that is covered by the remote maintenance according to this embodiment, but general maintenance activities of the apparatus-to-be-maintained that can be operated from a remove point are covered. --

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*Af*

Replace the paragraph starting at page 26, line 20 and ending at page 27, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Besides, if multiple apparatuses M are connected and/or multiple maintenance centers for different purposes of maintenance are installed, coverage and efficiency of maintenance can be enhanced. There may be a case where maintenance requires multiple inspections with different periodic maintenance intervals, but this diversification in maintenance can also be managed if multiple periodic maintenance intervals are prepared and assured implementation of maintenance in those intervals is monitored. Display of the quality of maintenance should not always be periodic but, for example, the quality may be displayed from time to time by a request from the personnel in charge by pressing a key or switch. Thus, the personnel in charge can recognize the quality of maintenance on a timely basis. --

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In the Abstract:

Line 11: Before "the difference" insert --if--.